

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES AMONG TOPICS AT MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 19

LANSING, MI, May 29, 2003 – Proposed changes to Michigan’s child support guidelines will be among the topics before the Michigan Supreme Court at a June 19 public hearing at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing.

Some of the most significant proposals include changing how parenting time affects support payments, how courts must determine which parent should provide health insurance, and how payments for uninsured medical expenses will be made.

The proposed child support guidelines and instructions on filing comments are available at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/scao/services/focb/mcsf.htm> (**File no. 2003-22**). All comments on the guidelines are due by July 1, 2003. After the Court considers all of the public comments, final changes will be incorporated into the 2004 Michigan Child Support Formula Manual, due to be published in December 2003.

The Court invites members of the public to appear and share their views on the child support guidelines and other agenda items. The hearing will take place in the Supreme Court courtroom on the sixth floor of the Hall of Justice, which is located at 925 W. Ottawa Street. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn by 11:30 a.m. Speakers will have three minutes each to present their views; the Supreme Court Justices may ask questions of the speakers. Anyone wishing to speak at the hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Court at P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or MSC_clerk@courts.mi.gov, no later than Tuesday, June 17, 2003. Schedules, agendas, and instructions for reserving time to speak at public hearings are posted on the Court's website at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt>.

The Court will also hear comments on proposed new Michigan Court Rule (MCR) 3.221, entitled “Hearings on Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act Bench Warrants.” (**File no. 2003-12**). The proposed rule, according to a staff comment, “determines the procedure to be used when a person is arrested pursuant to a bench warrant issued for a child support payer’s failure to appear at a show cause proceeding for nonpayment of support.”

Other proposals on the agenda include:

- amending Michigan Rule of Evidence (MRE) 702 regarding the trial judge’s role in admitting or excluding “novel expert testimony” (**File no. 2001-29**);
- revising MCR 7.304, MCR 9.114, and MCR 9.122 to clarify when a complaint for mandamus is appropriate (**File no. 2002-46**);
- amending MCR 7.211 and MCR 7.216 to deal with requests for damages because of “vexatious proceedings” in the Michigan Court of Appeals (**File no. 2002-34**);
- retaining Administrative Order (AO) 2002-5 to allow differentiated case management in the Court of Appeals on a temporary basis (**File no. 2002-44**);
- imposing an annual assessment of \$15 for the State Bar of Michigan’s Client Protection Fund as part of attorneys’ bar dues, and gradually increasing to \$140 the dues amount designated for attorney discipline agencies (**File no. 2002-38**);
- increasing the amount of attorneys’ general bar dues by \$40, instituting certain fees, and making other related changes (**File no. 2003-14**);
- modifying MCR 3.210 to specify that, in child custody cases, a judge’s in camera interview of the child is limited to determining the child’s “reasonable preference” regarding custody (**File no. 2002-13**);
- amending MCR 3.973, MCR 3.974, MCR 3.975, and MCR 3.997 to allow a trial judge to order a jury trial on new allegations of child abuse or neglect in an ongoing child protective proceeding (**File no. 2003-07**);
- revising MCR 3.203 of the domestic relations court rules to clarify requirements for serving of pleadings and notices (**File no. 2002-47**).
- amending MCR 7.302, MCR 7.304, and MCR 7.315 to give the Supreme Court discretion to order oral argument before deciding whether to grant leave to appeal or take other action, and to alter the time allotted for oral argument (**File no. 2002-40**).

More information about these agenda items, including comments, is available at www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/resources/administrative/index.htm

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